

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman

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## IMMIGRANT SCHOOL TO BE ESTABLISHED IN KOBE

Bishop Yashiro of the Seikokai (Anglican-Episcopal Church) left Japan on August 22 to attend the General Assembly of the Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. to be held on September 17. Actually most of the time before the Assembly convenes, Bishop Yashiro will be visiting Brazil and other South American countries to confer with Episcopal Church leaders in these countries concerning the setting up of the St. Paul Immigrant School in Kobe. The school will give practical instruction to Japanese immigrants going to South America. Instructors from South American countries are being considered for the staff.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WEEK OFFERINGS TO SEND MEDICAL WORKERS

Under the joint auspices of the Christian Education Association, Nursery School League, and the NCC Christian Education Department, the week from September 17 to September 24 will be observed as Christian Education Week with the theme, Love Your Neighbor.





A special offering will be collected to be used to send medical workers to Southeast Asia in cooperation with the Christian Medical Association. A goal of 2 million yen has been set.

Last year, an offering, with a goal set at 1 million yen, was taken to purchase medical equipment to send to Dr. Schwietzer in Africa. Actually 2 and a half million was collected. In gratitude, Dr. Schwietzer has planned a "Japan Hall", with construction to begin soon.

#### SOVIET DELEGATES PLEDGE TO WORK TO PRESERVE PEACE

A farewell was held on September 2 for delegates from Soviet Russia to the World Religionist's Peace Conference and the World Anti-Nuclear Test Conference.

Present at the farewell were Archbishop Sergei of the Orthodox Church, and Rev. Alexey N. Karpov of the Russian Baptist Church besides non-Christian delegates from the Soviet Union. There were about 40 Japanese present including both Christians and Buddhists.

Keenly aware that the announcement of Soviet Russia's resumption of Nuclear tests added great urgency to the dangerous world situation, the Japanese representatives who spoke words of farewell stated that though their countries and positions were different, their hearts were united in their efforts for world peace.

Each Soviet delegate responded to these words, Archbishop Sergei as follows: "We dedicate ourselves to work for world peace according to the resolutions concerning peace of the heart made at the World Religionist's Peace Conference. I am convinced that the Christians and Buddhists who have come to Japan at this time are united in their efforts to secure peace of the heart. When we return to our country we will intensify our efforts for peace. The road to peace is very difficult. However, we are determined to overcome these difficulties for the sake of peace."

Rev. Alexey N. Karpov spoke as follows: "During my stay in Japan, I travelled about and met many people, all of whom were united in their stand against war. I also saw the atomic destruction at Hiroshima which is not known in other countries. If one has not seen Hiroshima one has not seen Japan. The atomic bomb casualties say that they want the word peace translated into action. I have promised them that I will do my best to see that there will be no second Hiroshima."

#### ARCHBISHOP SERGEI ASKS THAT ORTHODOX CHURCH IN JAPAN BE OBSERVER

With the prospect of the Russian Orthodox Church being admitted as a member of the WCC at New Delhi in November, Sergei during his





visit to Japan, has expressed a wish that the Orthodox Church in Japan be considered as an observer in the Japan NCC. Also, with the actual admittance of the Russian Orthodox Church into the WCC, an even closer fellowship is anticipated here in Japan.

The 100th anniversary commemorating the arrival of Nicolai in Japan is being observed this year. Nicolai, an important personality in Japanese Christian history was highly respected by many Japanese and did much to better relations between the Soviet Union and Japan. A special ceremony was held on August 30 which Sergei addressed.

#### DR. MATSUSHITA NOMINATED TO WCC-IMC COMMITTEE

Dr. Masatoshi Matsushita, President of Rikkyo University, has consented to serve as the Japanese representative on the WCC-IMC International Problems Committee. He was nominated to succeed the late Mr. Soichi Saito, former Executive Secretary of the Japan YMCA.

Dr. Matsushita is 60 years old and a prominent member of the Anglican-Episcopal Church. He is an authority on international law and is well known as a critic. During Kishi's term as premier of Japan, Dr. Matsushita went as his special ambassador to Europe and America to work for prohibition of nuclear bombs. At present he is head of 2nd Gensuikyo (Anti-Nuclear Test Association).

With the selection of Dr. Matsushita to the International Problems Committee of the WCC, the International Problems Committee of the Japan NCC was also initiated.

#### KYODAN HISTORY TO BE PUBLISHED

As a part of the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Kyodan, a history of the United Church of Christ in Japan is being compiled. The manuscript was recently completed and has been scrutinized by a compilation committee and several others familiar with the situation as the actual time of merger.

Rev. Kozue Tomoi, former Executive Secretary of the Kyodan and Rev. Akira Miyauchi, former chairman of the editorial staff of the Kirisuto Shimpo are writing the history.

#### "TALKING BIBLES" TO BE PRODUCED

According to the latest statistics there are approximately 220,000 blind people in Japan, and only about 70,000 of these are able to read braille.

To fill this great need, the Japan Christian Council for Evangelism of the Blind, which has previously published braille





magazines and commentaries and put out circulating tapes, has submitted a plane to the Japan Bible Society requesting that the Society produce a Bible that can be "heard". This request has been approved and Executive Secretary Miyakoda of the Bible Society announced that the Bible will be put on tape beginning with the N.T.

The Council for Evangelism of the Blind has recently produced a braille N.T. commentary and is planning to release the first half of a 12 volume O.T. commentary in November.

